

youth ministry: **now**

Join us for a series of luncheons and lectures on the foundations of youth ministry

Presented in partnership with the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Berkeley Divinity School, and the Youth Ministry Initiative



Our youth have God-given yearnings: for community characterized by unconditional love and acceptance; for ecstatic experiences that lift them out of the regrets and anxieties of daily life; for constructive ways of reflecting on existential questions; and for guidance on the ways of life that lead to authentic human flourishing. How can we learn to be the leaders who our kids will trust to walk with them on this path?

The very survival of our particular Christian traditions, not to mention the fulfillment of our Christian mission, demands that we attend urgently and passionately to the Christian forma-

tion of our young. For our young people to be the future of the church, we must fully welcome adolescents into the present of the church as well. This requires that we reflect deeply and act urgently on the theological foundations, the cultural contexts, and the best practices of exemplary youth ministries. This year the "Youth Ministry: Now" colloquium continues with a series of lectures focused on the principle foundations of youth ministry. We invite you to join the conversation as we listen and learn from one another.

—The Rev. Skip Masback, YDS '94
Managing Director, Yale Center for Faith and Culture

The series is free and open to all

Come hear one presentation or come for all

Where:

Yale Divinity School
(Room TBD)
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Please email Kelly@youthministryinitiative.org with any questions or to reserve a lunch at the luncheon(s) you elect to attend.

Each of the lectures will also be broadcast live and can be viewed at new.livestream.com/yaledivinityschool/ymin

Schedule of Lectures

October 2 Dr. Chap Clark
November 6 Rev. Harold E. Masback, III
December 4 Dr. Andrew Root
January 8 Dr. David White
February 5 Dr. Evelyn Parker
March 12 Dr. Rodger Nishioka
April 2 Mark DeVries
May 7 Dr. Yolanda Smith

Daily Schedule

12:00pm Lunch available
12:30pm Presentation begins
1:30pm Networking and conversation

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Yale Center for Faith & Culture

Berkeley
The Episcopal Seminary at **YALE**

youth ministry: **now** speakers.....



DR. CHAP CLARK

Vice Provost for Regional Campuses and Strategic Projects, Professor of Youth, Family and Culture, Fuller Theological Seminary

October 2: Beyond Hurt 2.0: Sticky Faith and Other Ways to Love Kids

For the past decade adults have wrestled with understanding and responding to the needs of Millennials. Labels abound, mostly blaming kids for being who they are: entitled, consumers, self-focused, even narcissistic. Yet we know that they are who we have made them to be, and they are only responding to the

world we have handed them. *Our kids are not the problem, how we think about them, encourage them, lead them and love them is what matters.* This session will focus on what is **good** and **powerful** about the emerging generation, and what adults - and especially those in the church—can do to celebrate, encourage and help to guide our young into becoming strong leaders for the future.



REV. HAROLD E. MASBACK, III

Managing Director, Yale Center for Faith and Culture; Director, Adolescent Faith Flourishing Program, Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Yale Divinity School

November 6: The Arc of a Year: How Mission Drives a Youth Group Program Schedule

Youth Ministry is more than wacky games and mission trips, and it's even more than programs earnestly planned on the fly late Tuesday night, after you're done with the confirmation

class and before you stagger home. Effective youth ministers work with their colleagues, youth group members and their parents to discern the youth ministry's mission before turning to their calendars. As the saying goes, "we mostly hit what we're aiming at in life." This session will focus on alternative mission statements and how to craft a cycle of programming to drive those respective missions.



DR. ANDREW ROOT

Associate Professor and Carrie Olson Baalson Chair of Youth Ministry and Family Ministry, Luther Seminary

December 4: The Children of Divorce: Interpreting the Experience of Divorce for Youth Ministry and the Church

This presentation will explore the impact of divorce on young people. Usually (both in the church and culture) we have seen divorce as a painful occurrence that can nevertheless be over-

come if the young person can be taught to think correctly about the divorce of his or her parents ("it isn't your fault!"). Yet, such a perspective tends to distract us from larger realities. Divorce at its core thrusts young people into questioning their very existence, "if I exist because of the relationship of these two people, who I am, and how can I be in the world, if they are no longer together?" This presentation will examine this all too common cultural reality from a philosophical and theological perspective, seeing what difference this makes for our ministries.



DR. DAVID WHITE

C. Elis and Nancy Gribble Nelson Associate Professor of Christian Education, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

January 8: Participating with God: Missional Practices for Youth Ministry

Mission encounters are a staple in youth ministry and constitute an essential practice of Christian faith. This lecture will briefly survey the theological significance of mission, reveal the historical and developmental significance of missional activities for adolescents, and will suggest best practices for missional youth ministry.



DR. EVELYN PARKER

Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University.

February 5: The Elephant in the Room: Conversations about Race with Youth

What's on a youth pastor's list of tough topics to talk about with teenagers? Teen suicide? Sex? Violence in dating relationships? While pastors struggle to find words for these tough topics with teens, occasionally race and racism surfaces when youth speak

about interracial dating, hate crimes at schools, and growing up biracial. What is the tacit message about the church, the congregation, and its leaders when a youth pastor avoids talking with teens about race? What are best practices that maintain ecclesial and communal integrity? This lecture will focus on ecclesial, anthropological and practical ways to tackling the tough topic of race with youth.



DR. RODGER NISHIOKA

Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary

March 12: Youth Ministry and Technology

Twenty-five years ago we pretty much thought the only creature on the face of the earth that could legitimately create a "web-site" was a spider. Six years ago we thought the only creature that could "tweet" was a bird. Now we know differently. There is no such thing as "high tech" with youth ministry. Technology is the norm. It is the standard. So how do we do youth ministry

in this technological age? Do we just join them on twitter and instagram? What about friending them on Facebook? What about the emerging trend of technology sabbaths? This session will focus on the opportunities and dilemmas surrounding technology and youth ministry. Together, we will explore basic guidelines and best practices around technology for our ministry with youth and their families.



MARK DEVRIES

Founder of Youth Ministry Architects and the Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at the First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

April 2: Sustainable Youth Ministry

In the world of youth ministry, there are a handful of constant factors that thrive over the long haul. This seminar introduces participants to those factors and offers a strategic design for instilling these foundational patterns into the fabric of any youth ministry, regardless of its model. Mark DeVries identifies pat-

terns that persistently show up in "stuck" ministries and introduces proven principles for moving beyond stuck-ness and progressing toward a ministry characterized by strategic forward motion. Sustainable youth ministries are led by successful systems leaders. Transformation of traditional person-centered/ program-centered ministries requires leaders who are equipped to make the leap from a short-term, patchwork ministry to one that promises staying power long after the current leadership team has moved on.



DR. YOLANDA SMITH

Research Scholar and Lecturer in Christian Education, Yale Divinity School.

May 7: Exploring the Bible with Contemporary Youth

Many things capture the minds and imaginations of today's youth—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, virtual games, flickr, tumblr, and so much more. In a media and technologically savvy world, how can today's youth find time to explore the Word of God? This workshop will explore multiple

ways of teaching the Bible with contemporary youth. Attention will be given to the nature of youth, creative approaching to teaching the Bible, and equipping youth to engage the text in a way that is meaningful and transformative in their lives.

All lectures will be broadcast live at new.livestream.com/yaledivinityschool/ymi